

Washington, DC – Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA-2) today presented a check for \$6.2 million to Valley Healthcare Systems, Inc. (VHSI). The funds were awarded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

“For over two decades, Valley Healthcare has been a leader in providing vital healthcare services to the citizens of Muscogee County,” said Congressman Bishop. “Whether rich or poor, black or white, urban or rural, the Valley Healthcare staff has worked to improve the lives of those in this community, serving as a linchpin in the healthcare of the community. With these funds today, Valley Healthcare will continue to expand and ensure that more citizens have increased access to high-quality, affordable healthcare.”

VHSI is proposing to construct a new 29,860 square foot facility in a highly accessible location in Columbus. When fully operational, the new building will allow VHSI to perform an additional 17,000 visits annually. The project also will allow VHSI to add a pharmacist.

According to an August 2010 report by the Center for American Progress, the \$2 billion in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 generated \$3.2 billion of economic activity. The report also said that in 2009 health centers generated nearly \$20 billion in economic activities for their local communities – both urban and rural.

In addition, the new health reform law provides an additional \$9.5 billion in operating costs and \$1.5 billion for new construction of community health centers.

“With this funding increase, community health centers will be able to double the number of patients they serve to up to 40 million annually by 2015,” said Congressman Bishop.

Since the main facility of VHSI was torn down in 2007, the health center has operated out of temporary and modular spaces.

VHSI is the only non-Federally Qualified Health Center in Muscogee County and the only

non-military healthcare provider on the south side of Columbus.

In 2004, VHSI received a \$500,000 appropriation through Congressman Bishop, who sits on the Appropriations Committee.

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